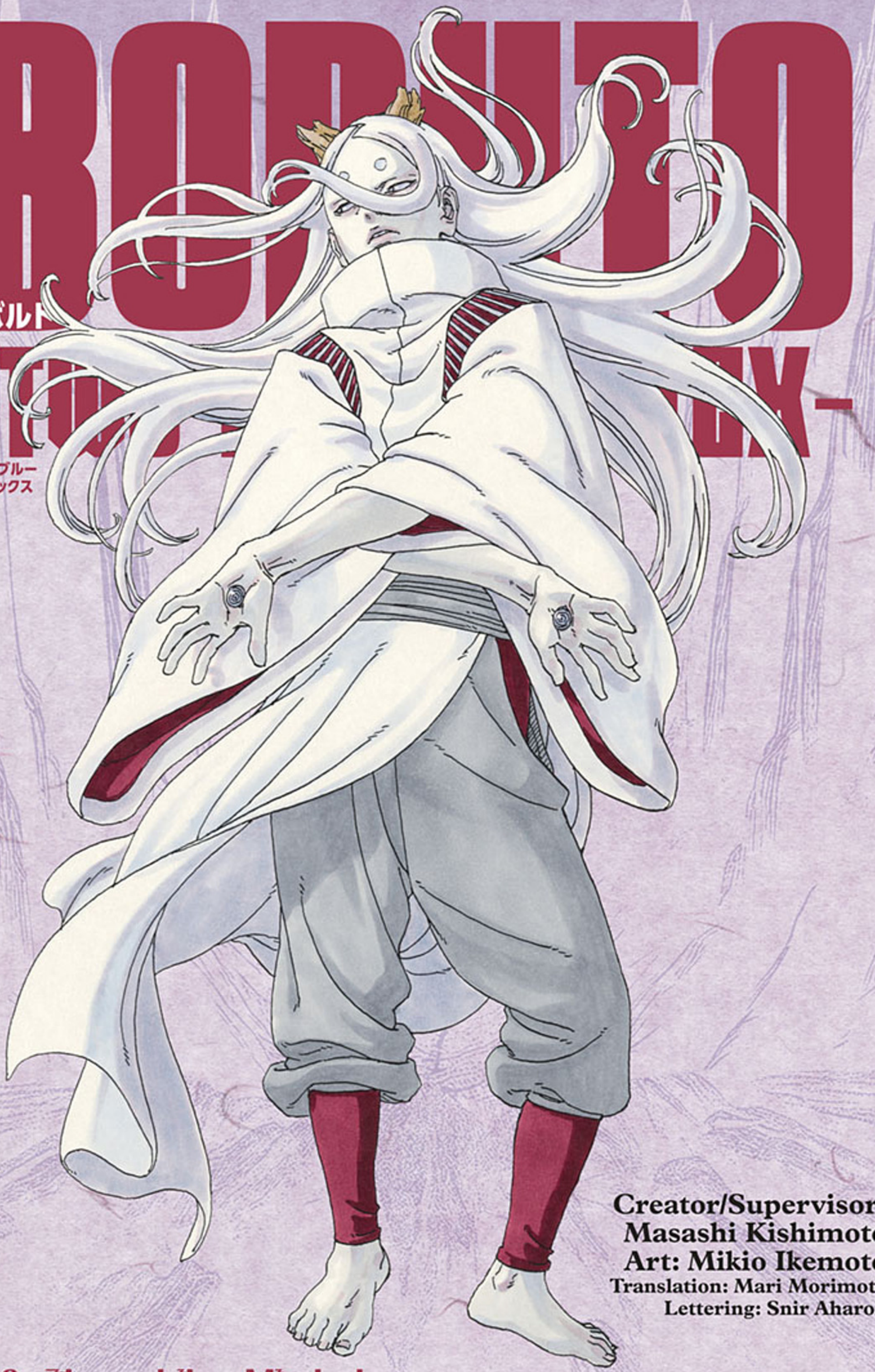
BORUTO

-ボルト-

TWO BLUE VORTEX

-トゥー ブルー ボルテックス-



Creator/Supervisor:
Masashi Kishimoto
Art: Mikio Ikemoto
Translation: Mari Morimoto
Lettering: Snir Aharon

26: Those Like-Minded

THIS HONEY'S ALWAYS SOLD OUT!

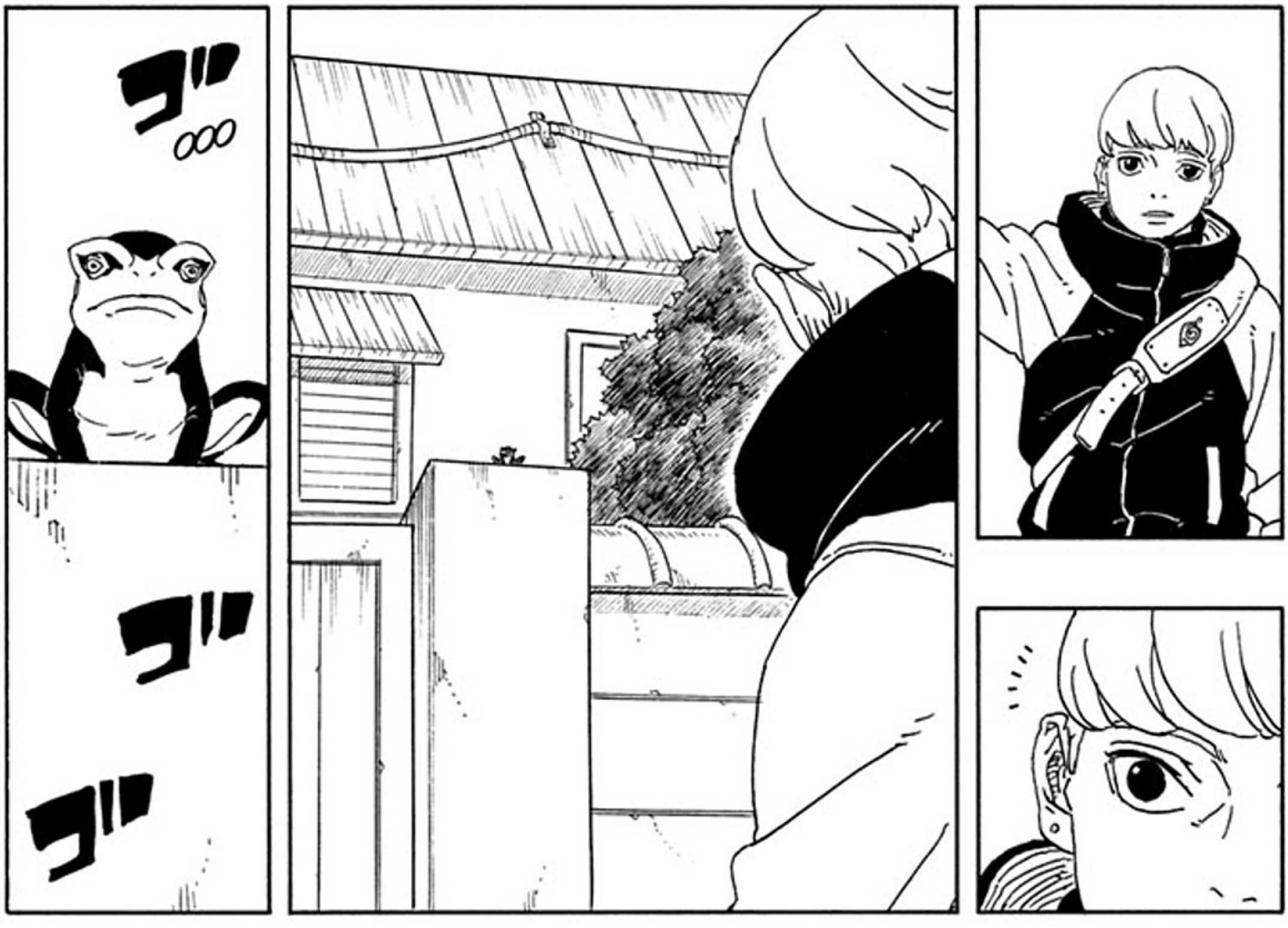
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE, ISN'T IT, HIMAWARI?

YEAH, I WAS REALLY LUCKY THIS TIME.

OH, WOW!

YOU MADE MY DAY!

THANKS, INOJIN!!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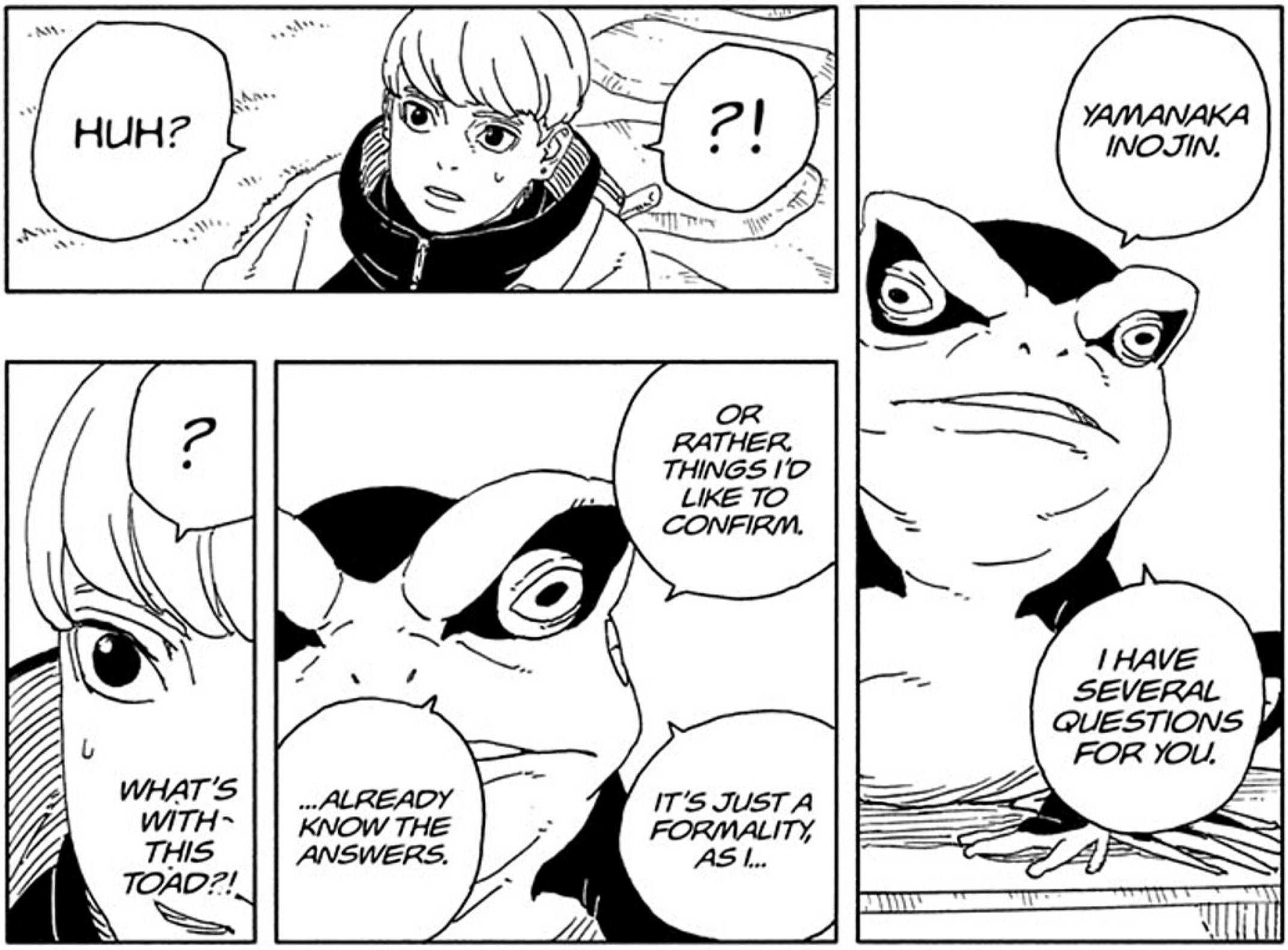

HUH?
?!
YAMANAKA INOJIN.
?
WHAT'S WITH THIS TOAD?!
...ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWERS.
OR RATHER, THINGS I'D LIKE TO CONFIRM.
IT'S JUST A FORMALITY, AS I...
I HAVE SEVERAL QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

!!

ER...

WHA?!

YOU HAVE AFFECTIONATE FEELINGS TOWARDS UZUMAKI HIMAWARI...

...IN THE ROMANTIC SENSE...

...DO YOU NOT?

...

YOUR REACTION IS SUF-FICIENT.

VERY WELL.

DO YOU WISH...

...TO PROTECT HER?

NEXT...

GOOD.

THAT'S ALL.

WELL...

DUH!

HOLD UP.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHO ARE YOU?

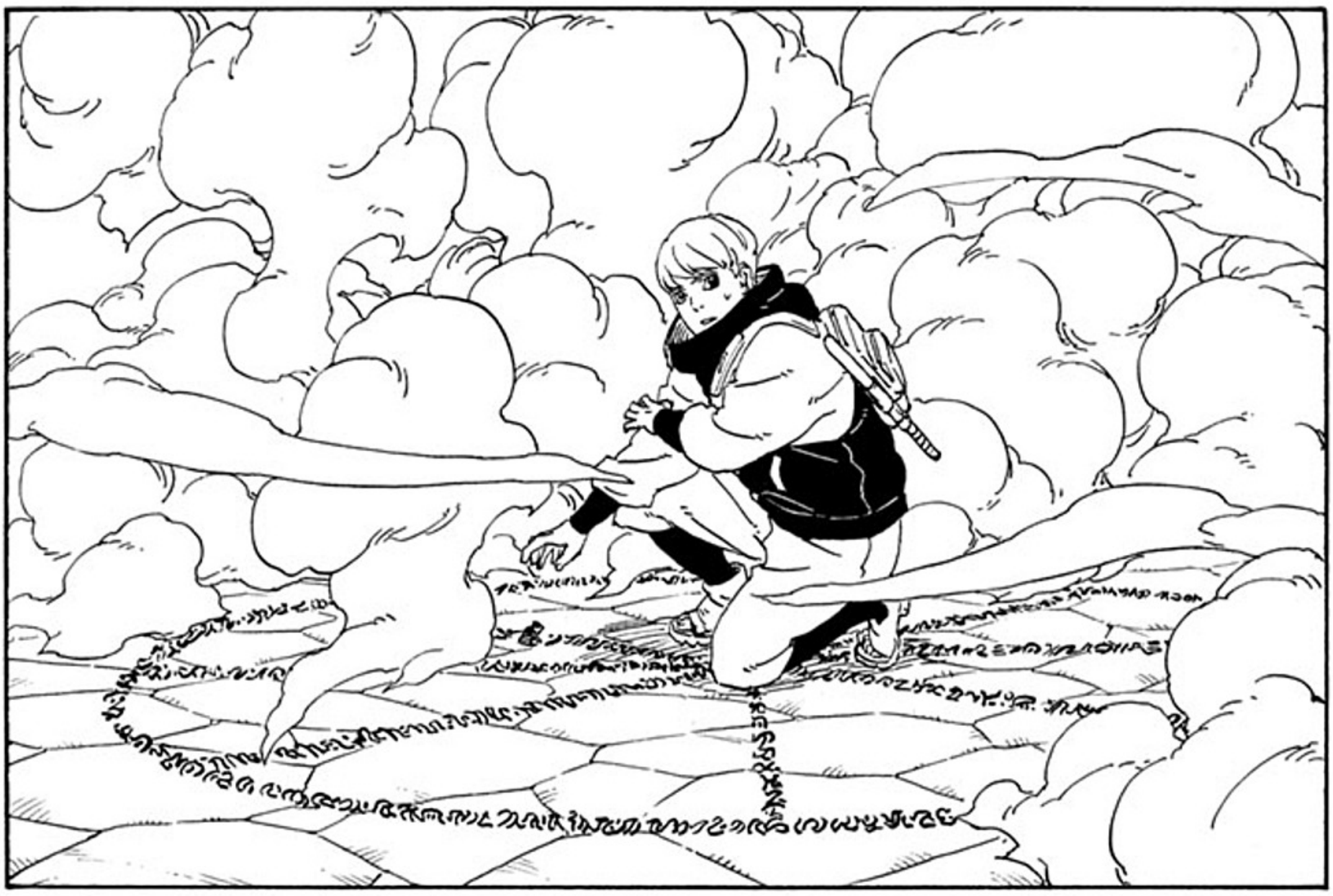
OF COURSE!!

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE...

...COME WITH ME.

OUR INTERESTS ARE ALIGNED.

BOOF



...

WHO...

...ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS KASHIN KOJI.

AND I AM FIGHTING TO PROTECT THIS PLANET FROM THE DIVINE TREES' MENACE.

SO YOU CAN'T LEAVE ON YOUR OWN.

DON'T TAKE THIS AS A THREAT, BUT...

...THIS PLACE DOESN'T HAVE A PHYSICAL EXIT.

KASHIN KOJI?

THAT KARA REMNANT?!

BORUTO!

DON'T WORRY, THOUGH.

ONCE WE FINISH TALKING, I'LL SEND YOU BACK.

ゴ

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WHAT'S THAT...
...YOU'VE GOT THERE?
HEY.

...

...

...A GLIMPSE OF LOVE.

...

IS THAT ICKY?

I GAINED A GREAT DEAL THROUGH MATSURI...

...INCLUDING THESE TEARS.

...

YOU...

...HAD A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

THIS IS A TYPE OF BOOK KNOWN AS A *NOVEL*.

IT'S A FICTIONAL TALE, BUT I UNDER-ESTIMATED IT.

IT SEEMS TO HAVE TOUCHED MY HEART WITHOUT ME REALIZING IT.

THAT WAS MATSURI'S EMOTIONAL REACTION.

TO THE VARIOUS FEELINGS SHE CAME TO HARBOR FROM INTERACTING WITH KONOHA-MARU.

ANGER, SADNESS...

...AND...

...

IT'S INTRIGUING.

NO.

TO UNDER-STAND AND CONTROL LOVE...

...WE NEED ADDITIONAL INTEL.

AND YET...

...THIS IS NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH.

...I THINK...

...THE SPECIFIC REASON WHY MY INSTINCT CHOSE...

...I UNDERSTAND NOW...

SPEAKIN' O' WHICH...

...THIS AIN'T SO PROFOUND AS TO BE INTEL, BUT...

DO TELL.

OH?

...THAT WOMAN EIDA...

I WANNA DEVOUR HER...

...NOT JUST IN THE SENSE OF SIMPLY CONSUMIN' HER...

...AS MY TARGET.

...

I WANNA MAKE HER SUPERIOR...

...BUT FOR CONTROL.

...GENETIC INFORMATION MINE.

...OUGHTA *THRIVE* MORE AS A SPECIES.

I JUST FEEL THAT WE DIVINE TREES...

I DON'T GIVE A SQUAT ABOUT LOVE OR WHAT ALL.

THRIVE, HMM?

I SEE...

INTER-ESTING.

WELL?

...

...TO LEARN ABOUT LOVE.

MIGHT NOT BE A BAD WAY...

SHUP

ゴオオオ

VWOOO

KASHIN KOJI!

CAN YOU HEAR ME...

WAIT.

WHOSE MIND TRANSMIS-SION JUTSU ARE YOU USING?

...SHIKA-MARU?

...

THERE'S NO CHANCE OF THE SENSORY UNIT HEAR-ING US.

I HAVE YAMANAKA INOJIN'S COOPER-ATION.

AND RELAX, THIS TRANSMISSION IS OFF-THE-BOOKS, OF COURSE.

IT'S ACTUALLY ABOUT THAT VERY THING.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO, YOU MAY...

...END UP LOSING YOUR POSITION AS HOKAGE.

I SEE.

BUT COULD WE TALK LATER?

I'VE ALREADY GOT A LOT ON MY MIND...

...WITH THE ELDERS HAVING SUMMONED ME.

IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM FOR ME AS WELL IF THAT HAPPENED...

...SO I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH ADVICE AS I CAN...

...BUT WHAT WILL TRANSPIRE IS UP TO YOU. TREAD CAREFULLY.

!

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I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD JUST RESIGN RIGHT NOW.

WHAT A BOTHER.

I WAS AFRAID OF THAT.

DAMMIT !!

PARDON ME...

KRII

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, LORD EIGHTH.

WELL, WELL...

LORD KOBU...

WHAT BRINGS YOU, LORD DAIMYO'S PERSONAL CHAMBERLAIN, HERE?

OR RATHER ...

...INTERIM HOKAGE NARA SHIKAMARU.

?!

ARBI-TRARILY ?!

THAT MISSION IN SAND THAT YOU PLANNED...

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

...AND CARRIED OUT ***ARBITRARILY*** ON YOUR OWN.

...

...WE MAY BE TALKING ABOUT MORE THAN JUST BUDGET CUTS.

...DEPEND-ING ON THE CIRCUM-STANCES...

I AM HERE AS AN OBSERVER.

LORD DAIMYO IS QUESTIONING YOUR ABILITY TO CARRY OUT THE RESPONSI-BILITIES OF VILLAGE HEAD.

AS THE VERY NECESSITY OF SHINOBI VILLAGES HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY BROUGHT UP IN RECENT TIMES...

...

...WE OBTAINED CERTAIN INTEL.

UNFOR-TUNATELY, THEY'RE NOT THE NEGOTIAT-ING TYPE.

AND AS WE MOVED TO DEAL WITH THEM...

...WERE ALL BASED ON THIS INTEL.

THE DETAILS AND PERSONNEL FOR THIS RECENT MISSION...

AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, BOTH...

...OUR VILLAGE AND THE LAND OF FIRE...

...ARE CURRENTLY UNDER THREAT FROM DIVINE TREE BEINGS.

WHAT ?!

...

...WAS IT?

AND WHAT SORT OF INTEL...

IT'S FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERY-ONE.

ITS VERACITY IS UNCERTAIN IN THE FIRST PLACE...

...I CANNOT GO INTO DETAIL.

APOLO-GIES, BUT...

...BUT DO NOT MENTION PRE-SCIENCE.

YOU PROB-ABLY ALREADY KNOW THIS...

WITH THE RESOLVE ...

...TO TAKE FULL RESPON-SIBILITY IN THE CASE IT FAILED.

AND SO, I DECIDED IN THIS CASE...

HOW-EVER...

...ON THE FRONT LINES, WE OFTEN HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON UNCERTAIN FACTORS.

...TO FOLLOW MY INTUITION AND LEAN ON THIS INTEL THAT I HAD.

...

LORD EIGHTH...

...

WHILE IT SEEMS UNLIKELY...

...I WOULD SINCERELY HOPE...

...THAT YOUR SOURCE IS NOT THAT TRAITOR BORUTO.

PUTTING ASIDE THE INTEL'S CONTENT ITSELF...

...WHAT WE ARE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT IS ITS ***SOURCE.***

...

...THAT HE'S SECRETLY IN LEAGUE WITH THEM.

IN FACT, THERE ARE EVEN RUMORS...

I HEAR HE'S WELL-VERSED IN THE DIVINE TREES' BIOLOGY, FOR SOME REASON.

AS REVENGE AGAINST...

...

...THE VILLAGE THAT DROVE HIM OUT.

...KONOHA WITH FAKE INTEL AND DESTROY IT FROM WITHIN.

THAT HE HAS A DESPICABLE PLAN TO DECEIVE...

...

NO, LET HIM SPEAK.

BETTER THEY DIRECT THEIR IRE AT HIM THAN AT YOU.

GAH...

IF I MAY?

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THAT'S...

KONOHA-MARU!

ARE YOU ACTUALLY ...

...TAKING HIS SIDE, SARUTOBI?

SO THIS MAY SOLELY BE MY PERSONAL IMPRESSION...

BORUTO SAVED MY LIFE DURING THIS LAST MISSION.

ER...

I JUST...

...THINK WE SHOULD HEAR HIM OUT...

...OF HARMING KONOHA.

...BUT I DON'T BELIEVE HE HAS ANY INTENTION...

HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT WE SHOULD...

...LISTEN TO A CRIMINAL!

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR DEBATE ON THIS POINT!!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? HE DARED TO STRIKE DOWN THE HOKAGE!

YOU IDIOT!

HE'S AN UNDENIABLE FELON AND DESERVES TO BE ELIMINATED!!

...THERE IS A ***MOLE*** IN THE VILLAGE'S INNER CIRCLE WHO IS COMMUNICATING...

...WITH THE CRIMINALS.

...AFFECTING THE SECURITY OF THE LAND OF FIRE AS WELL AS KONOHA'S PRESTIGE.

THAT WOULD BE A MAJOR PROBLEM...

ENOUGH, KONOHA-MARU!

BUT COUNCILLORS!

THE MISSION ITSELF...

BUT NOT IF...

...MAY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS, AT FIRST GLANCE.

...

YESSIR.

I SHALL QUESTION HIM MYSELF.

YAMANAKA SAI...

ESCORT SARUTOBI KONOHA-MARU.

SPARE NO ONE.

IDENTIFY ALL WHO'VE HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH BORUTO.

...HAD TO HAVE HAD SOMEONE ON THE INSIDE WHO AIDED HIM.

...TO ESCAPE CUSTODY DURING HIS INTERROGATION AND FLEE, BORUTO...

TO HAVE MANAGED...

I SWEAR TO EXPOSE THEM.

...

IS THIS HOW YOU GUYS ALWAYS OPERATE?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MANY RULES YOU BROKE JUST NOW.

SECRETLY COMMUNICATING OUTSIDE OF THE SENSORY UNIT'S PURVIEW, WITHOUT FOLLOWING PROCEDURE...

WHEN PERSONAL USE OF MIND TRANSMISSION IS PROHIBITED?

...AND SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEETING AMONG KONOHA'S TOP BRASS, NO LESS?

...YOU ARE NOW DEEPLY IN COLLUSION WITH US.

AND DON'T FORGET, INOJIN...

WE ARE BEING HUNTED.

OUR ENEMY WON'T STOP AT ANYTHING.

...

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BE CRAFTY.

...BE THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU TRULY NEED.

YOU GOTTA ALWAYS...

USING YOUR BRAIN.

...MUST CONFORM TO THE ENEMY'S METHODS.

SO WE TOO...

WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF OPERATING WITHIN THE RULES.

...I HAVE TO HAVE...

...POWER AND RESOLVE.

HAVING FOUGHT JURA TOO, I KNOW...

...ESPECIALLY HIMAWARI, FROM THAT MONSTER..

...THAT IN ORDER TO PROTECT EVERYONE...

...

HAS IT BEEN RESOLVED?

BORUTO.

...

YOU OFFERED HIM SOME DEAL, DID YOU NOT?

IN TERMS OF MOMO-SHIKI.

I DON'T CARE FOR THAT ATTITUDE OF YOURS.

...

THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER.

RELAX.

...

I'LL HOLD UP MY END.

COULD YOU BOTH STOP...?

UH...

YOU'RE ALWAYS HOLDING BACK THE INCONVE-NIENT BITS...

BACK AT YA.

I MERELY GUIDED THINGS TOWARD THE MOST LIKELY PATH FOR SARADA TO AWAKEN HER MANGEKYO.

IN ORDER TO AVOID A FUTURE WHERE THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF MANY MORE PEOPLE GETTING KILLED.

HOW MANY WERE SUPPOSED TO DIE DURING THE SAND MISSION?

WE'RE WASTING TIME.

COULD WE MOVE ON?

IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CHILDISH CRITICISMS TO MAKE, LET'S HEAR THEM NOW.

VERY WELL.

KONOHA-MARU'S BEEN ESCORTED TO THE INTERRO-GATION ROOM.

...I AM STILL FREE FOR THE TIME BEING.

I SUSPECT MY TURN WILL BE COMING SOON, BUT...

ゴオオオオ VWOOO

YOU THERE, SHIKA-MARU?

WHAT'S THE LATEST?

IN ABOUT ONE WEEK FROM NOW...

ALL RIGHT. CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY IF ANYTHING CHANGES.

...WITH YOU AS HOKAGE.

THE COMING BATTLE WILL GO BETTER...

...THE DIVINE TREE KNOWN AS MAMUSHI WILL APPEAR IN KONOHA.

WHAT A PAIN IN THE BUTT...

YEAH ...

I WILL NOW TELL YOU...

...HIS ABILITIES AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM.

HIS TARGET IS EIDA.

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ゴゴゴ

VWOOO ゴゴゴゴゴ

UH...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHEN"?

HUH?

WHEN WILL YOU PROFESS YOUR LOVE...

SO...

...TO BORUTO?

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT DOING THAT?!

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?

...KINDA END UP CONFESSING TO KAKEI?

WHAT? WAIT A SEC...

DIDN'T YOU...

AND YOU, KAKEI?

...

BOR-ING...

I...

...

BESIDES, THAT'S THE LAST THING HE NEEDS RIGHT NOW!

I DON'T WANNA RISK SAYING IT WRONG AND THINGS GETTING WEIRD BETWEEN US...

I WON'T BE ABLE TO LOOK AWAY AT ALL!

HOW EXCITING !!

OOH, NO WAY!

IT DEPENDS ON THE TIMING, I GUESS...

KNOWING ME, I MIGHT...

...JUST BLURT IT OUT.

AND I THINK SARADA'S THE SAME.

NO MATTER WHAT SHE SAYS.

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT...

...GIVEN HER PRIOR GLOMPING OFFENSIVE.

OFFEN-SIVE?!

BUT, IN THE END...

...WHAT'S MOST IMPOR-TANT...

...IS BORUTO'S FEELINGS.

...

PLUS, AS SARADA SAID...

...FOR THE FORESEE-ABLE FUTURE.

...HE'S GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS ...

...SORRY TO BREAK THE MOOD, BUT SPEAKING OF LOVE...

BY THE WAY...

...I ASK AGAIN-- YOU TWO...

...AREN'T CAPTIVATED BY ME, ARE YOU?

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IF THEY CATCH ON...

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ゴ!!
IT SIMPLY ISN'T POSSIBLE.
ゴ!!
AT ALL.
I MEAN, IT'S OBVIOUS.
HOW ELSE ARE YOU ABLE TO...
ゴ!!
ゴ!!
ゴ!!
ゴ!!
ゴ!!
...TALK ABOUT LIKING SOMEONE *OTHER THAN ME*, IN FRONT OF ME?
ゴ!!
ゴ!!

SSH...

SHKEEN

A-
ACK...

YOU JUST TRIED TO DO SOMETHING, DIDN'T YOU...

...IF YOU DIE BEFORE YOU LAUNCH IT.

...WITH THAT VAUNTED MANGEKYO SHARINGAN OF YOURS?

...SARADA...

ゴ!!

ゴ

...IT'S USELESS...

WHATEVER IT IS...

ゴ

To be continued!